

TOWN OF EGREMONT, MASSACHUSETTS
MEETING OF THE SELECT BOARD
MINUTES

Date: February 2, 2021
Time: 10:00am
Place: Via Zoom Meeting
Egremont

Present via zoom meeting were Chairman George McGurn, Vice-Chair Lucinda Fenn-Vermeulen, Board member Mary Brazie. Others participating via zoom: Juliette Haas, Laura Allen, Bryan Frank, Chuck Ogden, Mary McGurn, Bill Tynan, Jim Noe, Tom Berkel, Jayne Smith, Frank Penglase.

It was announced that the meeting is video and audio recorded.

BUDGET REVIEW:

Town Clerk Juliette Haas presented a level funded budget request for general expenses. Election expenses are down because there is only one election in the coming year. She noted that this year her expenses will be lower than anticipated due to a grant awarded to the Town to pay for election expenses directly related to the pandemic. The Board voted unanimously to approve the Town Clerk's expenses at \$7,000, Election expenses at \$3,500 and Board of Registrars pay at \$50.

Bill Tynan presented the Conservation Commission's budget request in the amount of \$1,570 for general expenses, \$3,330 for a new clerical position, \$1,000 for an as needed consultant and \$1,000 for the purchase of equipment for presentation of plans. Education and training was reduced, and this portion of the current budget is not likely to be spent due to the pandemic. The funds for consulting have not been spent as the State has been able to give free help to date. The clerical budget for the current FY 21 was also not spent as the pandemic delayed the hiring of a clerk. The Board voted unanimously to approve the budget amounts as noted above.

Road Superintendent James Noe presented his budget requests. Construction and Maintenance has a slight increase at \$197,800, Vehicle Maintenance is level funded at \$61,100. Two capital items are being requested; a pick up truck at an approximate cost of \$33,000 and a dump truck at an approximate cost of \$240,000 after trade in values are deducted. An updated road inventory shows that during FY 21 Creamery Road was able to be resurfaced. Resurfacing projects were delayed/postponed due to the pandemic. He is asking for an additional \$150,000 for road repairs. The current year budget has funds remaining for some more work repairs in the spring. There is about \$60,000 left in the FY 21 Chapter 90 allotment. In FY 21 approximately 2 miles of road were resurfaced. He hopes to get 3-4 miles done in FY 22. When asked if the new dump truck could be retrofitted to utilize the blacktop drag box, Jim noted that this equipment was outdated and inefficient, was not being used and the town should get rid of it. The Board voted to declare it surplus property so that it can be sold. Jim asked if it was possible to include a new line item in the Departments budget specifically for capital expenses. Currently the town puts funds in a general stabilization fund which requires a 2/3 vote at town meeting. A specific stabilization fund for the road department could be established but it would still require a 2/3 vote at town meeting. The Board approved the highway budget requests as follows:

Highway Construction and Maintenance \$197,800

Vehicle Maintenance \$61,100

Pick up Truck \$33,000

Dump Truck \$240,000

\ Snow & Ice removal \$70,000

The Board approved the following budget requests:

Longevity Pay	\$3,425
Brien Center	\$2,203
Literacy Network	\$400
Construct	\$1,500
Berkshire Community Action	\$1,000
Rail Road Street Youth Project	\$2,500
Berkshire South Comm Ctr	\$2,000
Board of Health expenses	\$4,500
Housatonic Valley Asso	\$250

The Boards next budget meeting will take place on February 16 at 10am and will include discussions with the Fire Chief, Water Department and Police Chief.

OTHER BUSINESS:

The Board voted unanimously to appoint Shannon Poulin as the clerk to the Conservation Commission.

Chairman McGurn and Vice-Chair Vermeulen voted to approve a policy directive requiring employees to sign in/out of Town Hall if leaving for any reason during regular work hours. Selectperson Brazie recused.

After discussion, Chairman McGurn and Vice-Chair Vermeulen voted to extend the provisions of the Families First Coronavirus Cares Act until June 30, 2021. Selectperson Brazie recused.

After discussion, it was agreed that Jayne Smith and Chuck Ogden would draft a note encouraging town employees to get the COVID vaccine and offering a contact for additional information as a payroll stuffer for immediate distribution.

Vice-Chair Vermeulen asked to talk about the issue of Kevin Zurrin's proposed Marijuana grow. The issue is on the agenda for February 9 but as it is now a matter of possible litigation and in the hands of legal counsel, the Board will need to be cognizant of that and not discuss this in open session.

Meeting adjourned at 11:37am.

Mary Brazie,
Office Administrator

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The recording of the minutes is on record at the Town Hall for 90 days. Anyone who wishes to may obtain a copy or listen to the recording at Town Hall. Attachments are on file at Town Hall.